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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BURGE, LONDRA C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/921,224

Applicant(s)

BREUER, MATTHIAS

Examiner

Londra C Burge

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 3/1/2005.
2. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 17 and 18 are independent claims.
3. This action has been made Final.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sorge et al. (herein after Sorge) U.S. Patent No. 6,691,281 B1 filed 6/15/1999 in view of Zellweger et al. (herein after Zellweger) U.S. Patent No. 6,185,582 B1 filed 6/17/1998**

**In regard to independent claim 1, Sorge discloses *overriding the original content of the ... with a first user inputted value; recalculating the cells based on the first user inputted value* (Sorge Col 13 Lines 10-15 i.e. formatting cells in a table and Col 21 Lines 55-67 i.e. changes to the original data and replacing that data); *after recalculating the cells based on the first user inputted value* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells), *overriding the original content of the ... with a second user inputted value* (Sorge Col 21 Lines 55-67 i.e. changes to the original data and replacing that data); *recalculating the cells based on the second user inputted value* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells); *and automatically restoring the original content of the ... based on a user input such that the second***

*user inputted value is maintained in the ....* (Sorge Col 22 Lines 53-60 i.e. automatically inserting original data into document and Col 17 Lines 24-31 i.e. maintaining formatting)

Sorge does not specifically mention the table having a first and second cell. However, Zellweger mentions a first and second cell (Zellweger Col 5 Lines 20-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Zellweger to Sorge, providing Zellweger the benefit of having a first and second cell so the information in the first cell can be replaced with data from the second cell.

**In regard to dependent claim 2,** Sorge discloses *wherein the document is a spreadsheet document and the steps of the method are performed by a spreadsheet program.* (Sorge Col 5 Lines 35-43 i.e. Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program)

**In regard to dependent claim 3,** Sorge discloses *wherein the step of recalculating the cells based on the first user inputted value comprises automatically recalculating each cell which contains a reference to the ... and wherein the step of recalculating the cells based on the second user inputted value comprises automatically recalculating each cell which contains a reference to the....* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells and Col 6 Lines 5-22 i.e. user input recalculated)

Sorge does not specifically mention the table having a first and second cell. However, Zellweger mentions a first and second cell (Zellweger Col 5 Lines 20-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Zellweger to Sorge, providing Zellweger the benefit of having a first and second cell so the information in the first cell can be replaced with data from the second cell.

**In regard to dependent claim 4,** Sorge discloses *providing to the user an option for selecting the first cell to input the first user inputted value; and providing to the user an option for inputting the first user inputted value.* (Sorge Col 12 Lines 41-65 i.e. the user can choose a first cell and Col 6 Lines 5-20 i.e. user enters data into a spreadsheet)

**In regard to dependent claim 5,** Sorge discloses *storing the first user inputted data as a last result of a formula of the first cell; setting a flag of the first cell to indicate that the stored last result of the first cell is valid; and setting a flag of each cell which references the first cell to indicate that the stored last result of each cell which references the first cell is invalid.* (Sorge Col 6 Lines 22-37 i.e. data is stored and a DIC ID tag identifies the correct data in the table and Col 13 Lines 10-20 i.e. resulting data)

**In regard to dependent claim 6,** Sorge discloses *for each cell being recalculated, determining whether the flag is set to valid* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells and Col 6 Lines 5-22 i.e. user input recalculated and Sorge Col 6 Lines 22-37 i.e. data is stored and a DIC ID tag identifies the correct data in the table and Col 13 Lines 10-20 i.e. resulting data); *when it is determined that the flag is not set to valid, recalculating the last result of the cell to produce a new value* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells and Col 6 Lines 5-22 i.e. user input recalculated and Sorge Col 6 Lines 22-37 i.e. data is stored and a DIC ID tag identifies the data as correct or incorrect in the table and Col 13 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating resulting data); *replacing the last result with the new value such that the new value becomes the last result* (Sorge Col 13 Lines 10-15 i.e. formatting cells in a table and Col 21 Lines 55-67 i.e. changes to the original data and replacing that data); *and setting the flag to valid; and using the last result for the recalculation.* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e.

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recalculating data inserted in the cells and Col 6 Lines 5-22 i.e. user input recalculated and Sorge Col 6 Lines 22-37 i.e. data is stored and a DIC ID tag identifies the data as correct or incorrect in the table and Col 13 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating resulting data)

Sorge does not specifically mention the table having a first and second cell. However, Zellweger mentions a first and second cell (Zellweger Col 5 Lines 20-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Zellweger to Sorge, providing Zellweger the benefit of having a first and second cell so the information in the first cell can be replaced with data from the second cell.

**In regard to independent claim 7**, Sorge discloses *receiving a plurality of values for a plurality of the cells* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. a plurality of cells receiving data); *and storing the values in the last result of the plurality of the cells such that the values are used during recalculation instead of the formulas and such that each of the formulas for the plurality of the cells can be restored independently of other of the plurality of cells.* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells and Col 6 Lines 5-22 i.e. user input recalculated Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. a plurality of cells receiving data and Sorge Col 6 Lines 22-37 i.e. data is stored and Col 10 Lines 45-57)

Sorge does not specifically mention the table having a plurality of cells such as a first and second cell. However, Zellweger mentions a first and second cell (Zellweger Col 5 Lines 20-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Zellweger to Sorge, providing Zellweger the benefit of having a first and second cell so the information in the first cell can be replaced with data from the second cell.

**In regard to dependent claim 8,** Sorge discloses *a secondary storage device comprising a document having cells arranged in columns and rows, a first of the cells and a second of the cells each having an original content; a memory comprising a computer program that overrides the original content of the ... with a first user inputted value, recalculates the cells based on the first user inputted value, overrides the original content of the ... with a second user inputted value after recalculating the cells based on the first user inputted value, recalculates the cells based on the second user inputted value, and automatically restores the original content of the ... based on a user input such that the second user inputted value is maintained in the ...; and a processing unit that runs the computer program.* (Sorge Col 13 Lines 10-15 i.e. formatting cells in a table and Col 21 Lines 55-67 i.e. changes to the original data and replacing that data) (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells) (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells) (Sorge Col 22 Lines 53-60 i.e. automatically inserting original data into document and Col 17 Lines 24-31 i.e. maintaining formatting) (Sorge Col 16 Lines 9-22 and Col 14 Lines 20-65 and Col 21 Lines 55-57 i.e. application program)

Sorge does not specifically mention the table having a plurality of cells such as a first and second cell. However, Zellweger mentions a first and second cell (Zellweger Col 5 Lines 20-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Zellweger to Sorge, providing Zellweger the benefit of having a first and second cell so the information in the first cell can be replaced with data from the second cell.

**In regard to dependent claims 9 and 12,** claim 9 and 12 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 2 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 10**, Sorge discloses *a formula; a last result of the formula; and a flag indicating a validity of the last result.* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-27) (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells and Col 6 Lines 5-22 i.e. user input recalculated and Sorge Col 6 Lines 22-37 i.e. data is stored and a DIC ID tag identifies the data as correct or incorrect in the table and Col 13 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating resulting data)

**In regard to independent claim 11**, claim 11 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 13**, claim 13 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 3 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 14**, claim 14 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 4 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 15**, claim 15 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 16**, claim 16 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 6 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 17**, claim 17 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 7 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**In regard to dependent claim 18**, Sorge discloses *a first storage area that stores a formula; and a second storage area that stores a numerical value that temporarily overrides the formula so that the numerical value is used instead of the formula during recalculation.* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 9-37 i.e. storage which stores information such as the formula calculation)



Sorge does not specifically mention the table having a plurality of cells such as a first and second cell. However, Zellweger mentions a first and second cell (Zellweger Col 5 Lines 20-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Zellweger to Sorge, providing Zellweger the benefit of having a first and second cell so the information in the first cell can be replaced with data from the second cell.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. **Applicant's arguments filed 3/1/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.**

The applicant argues that the prior art does not teach overriding the original content of a cell with a user inputted value, and automatically restoring the original content of the cell based on a user input (Page 9 Para 2-5). However, Sorge discloses *overriding the original content of the ... with a first user inputted value; recalculating the cells based on the first user inputted value* (Sorge Col 13 Lines 10-15 i.e. formatting cells in a table and Col 21 Lines 55-67 i.e. changes to the original data and replacing that data); *after recalculating the cells based on the first user inputted value* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells), *overriding the original content of the ... with a second user inputted value* (Sorge Col 21 Lines 55-67 i.e. changes to the original data and replacing that data); *recalculating the cells based on the second user inputted value* (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells); *and automatically restoring the original content of the ... based on a user input such that the second user inputted value is maintained in the ....* (Sorge Col 22 Lines 53-60 i.e.

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automatically inserting original data into document and Col 17 Lines 24-31 i.e. maintaining formatting)

The applicant also argues that the prior art does not disclose the recalculation of the cell using a stored value (Page 10 Para 1-5). However, Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 mentions recalculating data inserted in the cells

### ***Conclusion***

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Londra C Burge whose telephone number is (571) 272-4122.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LCB  
5/13/05

  
**CESAR PAULA**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**